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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 22 February 1990, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. GARBA (Nigeria)
(President)

- General debate [8] (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 8 (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE

Mr. ZAKI (Maldives): It is a pleasure for me to speak on behalf of the Republic of Maldives, to assert and affirm my country's commitment to the fight against the menace of drugs - the illicit production, trafficking and use of narcotic drugs.

Drug abuse is not a major problem in the Maldives, nor is drug trafficking a serious threat. Nevertheless, we have been exposed to this growing danger, particularly in recent years, through our increasing contact with the outside world, especially by way of fast-expanding tourist traffic. The Government of Maldives therefore attaches great importance to the early erection of effective barriers against the social and criminal scourge of drugs.

There are basically three perspectives that influence my Government's approach to the problem. First, there is the psychological or moral aspect of the plight of drug victims, who are often abused and exploited by the criminal traffickers. This, as representatives will agree, is a universal concern. Secondly - and this is a factor common to many of us gathered here - Maldives is a developing country. Third, there are the specific conditions and the socio-economic environment peculiar to a micro-State.

Maldives is a developing country, so our vulnerability to the drug phenomenon has two aspects. In the first place, our development needs and challenges, together with our lack of resources, severely constrain our ability to battle against the drug problem. Then there is a characteristic that we share with many other developing countries - namely, the large proportion of young people in the population. My Government is greatly concerned about the fact that young people are particularly vulnerable to the evils of drugs - a fact that compounds the task

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of fighting illicit drugs. The situation is further aggravated by the country's extreme scarcity of the human skills that are necessary if we are to work towards our goal. In addition to the moral imperatives that dictate Government policy to create conditions conducive to the realization of the welfare of the individual and of society at large, the spectre of depleted or adversely affected productivity in the case of the largest segment of the productive work-force is a cause for concern and a matter that requires urgent action.

As Maldives is a developing country with inadequate infrastructure development, its Government is extremely concerned that its ability and that of other relevant agencies to introduce adequate deterrent measures, through educational programmes on the hazards of drug abuse, is less than optimal. We believe that proper education and the heightened awareness that comes with it provide the strongest defence against drug abuse. Unfortunately, programmes that are designed with this objective in view are hindered by the constraints of an under-developed economy.

As a micro-State, Maldives is affected disproprotionately by even the smallest challenge. In recent years, a few isolated cases of drug abuse have been identified and reported. Such cases can be accounted for largely as the adverse effects of increased tourist traffic. These cases have been taken very seriously by the Government, and the problem has been managed through a multi-pronged strategy. To deter the criminal elements that are no doubt involved in illicit trafficking in drugs, severe penalties, including stringent fines, have been imposed in order to wipe out any benefits that might be derived from such criminal activities, and law enforcement has been tightened. At the same time, the social issues, such as health care for, and rehabilitation of, the victims, have received considerable attention. The Government has led the way in focusing on the social

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and health aspects of drug abuse, which constitute an integral part of the demand-reduction component of the strategy against illicit drugs.

The demand-reduction and supply-curtailment strategies at the national level need to be reinforced by action at the international level. My Government has always attached particular importance to this principle, and has always sought ways and means of reinforcing action - at the national level by diplomacy, but principally at the regional level. Similarly, while fully aware of the global dimensions of the problem, it attaches great significance to the role of the United Nations and its affiliated agencies.

At the regional level, the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC), of which Maldives is a founder member, has kept a sharp focus on the prevention of drug trafficking and drug abuse. The SAARC Heads of State or Government declared 1989 as the SAARC Year Against Drug Abuse, and 8 December 1989 was marked as the SAARC Day Against Drug Abuse. The momentum for regional co-operation in the field of combating illicit drugs remained a priority throughout the year.

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(Mr. Zaki, Maldives)

At the national action level, the multi-pronged approach I mentioned earlier appears to keep the situation under control. Our demand-reduction programmes have worked well. Our law enforcement agencies have been diligent, thereby restraining the flow of drugs to an absolute minimum. Over the years they have become very effective, and the Government has reason to be satisfied with the results of its anti-drugs drive.

Notwithstanding success in this area, we are acutely aware of the need for international co-operation in the fight against illicit drugs, particularly against criminal elements involved. The networking between drug traffickers and cross-border criminals, such as narco-terrorists, though not known to be a problem in our region as yet, highlights the need to maintain our vigilance in safeguarding national security. In this context, there is a premium on regional co-operation and, indeed, on international co-operation. In recognition of this fact, my Government has already signed the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and gives undivided attention to the preliminary activities in devising a regional convention on drugs. These include exploration of ways and identification of areas for harmonizing existing anti-drug laws in the region. We are also pleased that work is under way regarding the formulation of a regional drug convention among the SAARC countries.

The past decade has clearly demonstrated that criminal elements are not the only source of danger to organized polities via drugs. In fact, the psycho-social effects of drug abuse can be seen as a subversion of the youth and a direct threat to the social fabric of many societies. The 1980s, however, have presented an even more dangerous aspect of drug abuse, related particularly to a specific mode of

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drug consumption - the intravenous injection. I refer to the deadly HIV virus which causes AIDS, the plague that has confronted many countries all over the world.

It is, therefore, because of these reasons that urgent international action is called for to combat the drug phenomenon. As such, we regard this expression of international concern timely. We believe that the United Nations is particularly suited for co-ordinating the world-wide campaign against drugs. We also take note of the fact that at the national level, concerted efforts are being undertaken by several Governments to repel the stranglehold threatened by illicit drugs.

In conclusion, I am happy to say that, although illicit drugs is not a serious problem in my country, my Government strongly supports and firmly believes in international co-operation in the fight against drugs.

Mr. ARAD (Israel): We commend the initiative supported by the entire international community to convene a special session of the General Assembly for the setting of a framework to increase international co-operation in the struggle against the drug epidemic, which becomes a matter of increasing urgency with each drug-related incident or tragedy occurring around the world. The urgent character attached to this session of the General Assembly comes as no surprise to those who have assumed a role in fighting the drug problem and have experienced the immense proportions of this epidemic at first hand. The Government of Israel wishes to stress its total and unwavering commitment to fight the drug scourge, and to participate fully in all international efforts with each and every State, regardless of political and other extraneous considerations. The hard work which brought about this important session of the Assembly is, in itself, a first step in the right direction.

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Israel is party to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and its amendments, and took all steps necessary to implement it. Since the United Nations Conference against Illicit Traffic and Narcotic Drugs convened in Vienna in June 1987, Israel, like many other countries, has taken decisive steps to increase the effectiveness of its national policy in controlling drug abuse and trafficking in illegal narcotics.

In this context, Israel established an Anti-Drug Authority in June 1988, in accordance with the Drug Control Authority Law of 1988. This first comprehensive action was taken in response to the national consensus on drug abuse. The prescribed functions of the Authority state that:

> "The Authority shall determine policy as to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, punishment, and law enforcement in the field of drug abuse, in order that such policy serve as a basis for its activity and the activity of the Government in the matter."

The Authority has been placed under the purview of the Prime Minister and is composed of representatives of different governmental and non-governmental organizations which fight illicit drugs.

Integral to this overall policy is our commitment to international co-operation, the main thrust of this special session. The Anti-Drug Authority in Israel has pursued its responsibility in two fundamental ways: first, by gaining insight into the existing policies of other Governments; and, secondly, by encouraging our legislative body to ratify the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, to which Israel is a signatory.

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Israel signed the Convention in Vienna in December 1988. Since then we have taken a number of steps aimed at standardizing our domestic legislation in line with the Convention. We have amended our 1973 Dangerous Drugs Ordinance in order to meet the stipulated requirement of confiscation in the Convention. At present, Israel is advancing further legislation to modify its laws relating to the money-laundering activities of drug traffickers.

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The amended Dangerous Drug Law calls for the confiscation of all property obtained directly or indirectly from a drug-related crime; extended sentences of up to 20 years' imprisonment for persons conviction of drug-dealing, and up to 25 years for involving a minor in drug offences; empowering the courts to rescind driver and business licences of convicted dealers; authorizing the police to search, without a court order, any person or property, if reasonable suspicion of drug possession exists.

The amended law is, however, lenient towards the drug addict, authorizing courts to release addicts under the condition that they seek treatment and rehabilitation. The authorities have come to understand the complexity of drug addiction and the need to encourage rehabilition and to assess punitive measures with care. Israel has also established universal jurisdiction over offences relating to illicit drug trafficking, enabling the prosecution of offenders in its territory even in cases where the offence has taken place abroad.

As is the case with many countries, the supply of illicit drugs in Israel originates in neighbouring countries. Historically Israel has been a crossroads for trade between countries to its north and its south. Naturally, goods in transit have been available for consumption at all points along the trade route.

Our northern neighbour, plagued as it is with internal turmoil and instability, is widely acknowledged to be a country in which large areas, especially in the Bekaa Valley, are exploited for the production of hashish and heroin, which are subsequently smuggled illegally to considerable portions of the globe. The countries abutting Lebanon are confronted with the acute problem of substantial drug production contiguous to their borders. Drug traffickers have a sizable market of consumers practically next door to whom they can provide illegal substances at relatively low cost. There has been some slight effort at crop

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eradication. It is, however, far from satisfactory, and the Bekaa Valley remains a hotbed of flourishing traffic. Syria bears a particular responsibility in suppressing the drug trade. We hope that the international focus on that region will result in positive action by the countries of the Middle East. Israel stands ready to co-operate with all our neighbours in this context despite the political constraints prevailing in the region.

My delegation concurs with the views widely expressed in the Third Committee at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly. Primary responsibility in fighting illicit drugs lies with each individual State. That view should, however, become a point of departure for bilateral, regional and multinational co-operation. This global problem points to the interdependence of each and every nation and to the acute need for international co-operation. Since the balance of strengths and weaknesses that prevails in each country's struggle against drugs is relative to the adequacy of its national policies in developing treatment, prevention, law enforcement and interdiction programmes, those elements bear directly on decisions taken by the international community. Such national capabilities should determine the extent and direction of global co-operation and the allocation of resources in the war against drugs.

Israel's Anti-Drug Authority has initiated projects which aim to integrate addicts and ex-addicts into society by engaging them in constructive activities and employment. We oppose policies which condemn drug-afflicted persons to the dark periphery of society and abandon them to the harsh mercy of the streets. We are only in the early stage of confronting the drug phenomenon within our borders. The services we are able to provide today are inadequate. New and effective approaches can be facilitated by adopting methods developed in other countries. We believe

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that trial and error represents the most effective process for developing effective programmes, responding to national realities and constraints.

Israel's drug problem has become more critical in the last decade, though the menace has not reached the depth of despair evident in some other societies. Yet we are experiencing the increasing ability of drug traffickers to evade our sophisticated border protection capability. The inevitable conclusion is that as long as there is a demand for drugs they will find their way into the hands of local dealers.

The Government of Israel shares the objectives of this special session of the General Assembly. We are eager to participate in the implementation of programmes that will reduce demand and inhibit supply. We cannot overstate the importance of the responsibility of each country in co-operating on a regional and international level to alleviate the tremendous strain caused by the illicit drug trade. Only by uniting and co-ordinating efforts can we create the conditions essential to eradicating this global scourge. Let us set aside our political differences and together mobilize to confront this threat, which endangers us all. It is our responsibility, for the sake of present and future generations, to eliminate this scourge, which crosses all national boundaries in the untold suffering it causes. By working together we can achieve the noble goals set forth by this Assembly.

Mr. NOGUEIRA (Portugal) (spoke in Portuguese; English text furnished by delegation): At the outset I wish to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the presidency of this special session of the General Assembly, confident that your experience will contribute to its successful work.

One cannot praise enough the commitment of the many organizations - global, regional and national, and governmental or otherwise - that have carried out worthy

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work in the search for a solution to the overall problem of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. On this occasion I would emphasize the foremost role of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other bodies because their example of tenacity in the fight against drugs surely brought about the convening of this special session of the General Assembly.

(Mr. Nogueira, Portugal)

Consequently, as a representative of a country of the European Community, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude and to state my full agreement with the eloquent words spoken at this special session by my Irish colleague, on behalf of the twelve States members of the European Community. In Portugal's view, the forum of the European Community clearly provides a privileged environment for co-operation in the struggle against drugs. We regard participation in the newly created European Committee against Drugs as essential to the co-ordination of the activities of member States.

It can be stated that the Portuguese Government has upgraded the drug problem to a State problem. Accordingly, it has been directing its efforts towards increasing the effectiveness of a co-ordinated fight against this scourge in all its aspects. Portugal, in all international forums, has earnestly joined in the proposals and initiatives and, above all, in the shared expectation of positive results from the actions outlined.

My main reason for addressing the Assembly is the desire to associate myself with the message of vigilance and challenge for collective action in the struggle against drugs.

The expectations for this new decade are justified. With astonishing speed - although the process must have seemed slow to those who have taken part in the desperate veering towards freedom - the year 1989, honouring with the wisdom of a sage the last decade of the century, passed on to us a message of hope, freedom and social jusice. Peace-loving persons, such as we are, with a free conscience, feel that the problems of certain peoples and nations are in reality more and more viewed as issues of all mankind, awakening to the solidarity of a broader international collective conscience.

The illicit types of production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are part of a whole, and are perhaps

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the greatest of all the problems of humanity. They affect the various regions of our planet; they are all features of one and the same phenomenon, which has to be fought as a whole - a phenomenon which, as we know, alienates the human being and the family unit, thus destroying the social fabric and endangering modern democracies by the violence which it represents and which threatens the future.

Production and trafficking, on the one hand, and supply and demand, on the other, are facets of a single, perverse mechanism. They condition and determine each other; they are, simultaneously, cause and effect; they are all equally rsponsible for the phenomenon which we are fighting. Let us not, then, naively limit the analyses of and the fight against it, because the growth of any of its aspects will always mean the growth of the drug problem as a whole.

As far as production and trafficking are concerned, while the fight must be implacable we must not forget that for the producing countries we should take into consideration the need to find mechanisms which will make the fight against the problem successful.

The crucial issue of control and eradication of drug cultivation requires a complex and slow process designed to encourage the substitution for such crops of other products that could be more easily marketed. Given the economic reality of the traditional producing regions, few alternative crops exist that can bring the same level of profit to the farmer. There is therefore a need for constant international co-operation with the populations of the producing countries to facilitate the implementation of this process.

As far as demand for and abuse of drugs is concerned, we must be aware that they are one of the symptoms of the individual and social malaise that is affecting primarily our youth. In fact, of all the problems affecting youth, drug-dependency is the most abhorrent because of the despicable way in which it enslaves young people and the corrosiveness which characterizes this addiction. This dependency

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is almost always explained by the lack of the social integration of youth; and it must be clearly stated that often this lack is not caused by some voluntary agnosticism but is a consequence of an unjust social fabric and structural inadequacies.

In the area of so-called primary prevention, the role of the family and of all society, as well as of education, is of irreplaceable value. We must therefore also reflect on the educational model if we do not want to take an inadequate approach to the question of the production of, trafficking in and, of course, demand for drugs. As Pope John Paul II said,

> "Today, more than ever before, education has become simultaneously a vital and a social imperative, which implies taking a stand and a strong decision to form mature personalities."

We need to educate for the future, anticipating changes and overcoming any negative experiences which might jeopardize the energy of youth. We want, above all, to prepare youth for the gradual and responsible exercise of freedom.

I believe, however, that we must go further in order to understand this phenomenon.

The model of socialization is changing - that is, the different methods by which society teaches its new members a coherent set of rules and values are in the process of being revised. The traditional model was based on the reproduction of inherited behaviour and values; on dependency on the family and social groups, which weakened the inventive capacity of the human being; and, finally, on the idea that youth was merely a transient period, devoid of intrinsic value. Nowadays, while the family still desires to preserve its identity and values, schools have, as a rule, been merely producing technicians. It is important to consider yet a new agent: the media, which have contributed - no doubt involuntarily - to shaping

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ian emotive rather than a rational youth, quicker to follow passion than reason, looking for immediate satisfaction rather than to long-term projects.

Social stimuli stress more strongly the sense of having rather than of being, or of moulding and educating. To this we must add that the family has been curtailed, becoming vulnerable and confronted by challenges it feels unable to meet. Therefore, new generations have the task of rethinking and reconstructing the social puzzle in order more adequately to serve new frontiers, new knowledge and new feelings.

Portugal is not a producer of drugs and yet its strategic geographical position confers on it a vital role in the world framework of the fight against drug trafficking. In fact, because it is located between producers and consumers, at the western extreme of Europe, between the American continent and Europe and between Europe and Africa, Portuguese territory can be used as a stop-over and support base for trafficking. Apart from being a support base or a stop-over, Portugal can also be used as a doorway to Europe. This factor will gain added relevance when the European internal market comes into force and the Portuguese border becomes the outer border of the European Community.

Thirteen years have elapsed since Portugal first created bodies and services specifically devoted to the prevention of and the fight against the use of and the illicit trafficking in drugs. Since then, while it is true that the amounts seized have been increasing, it is also true that, in all probability, the total amount of drugs circulating in the country, either in transit or for internal use, has also gradually incrased. Aware of this situation, the Portuguese Government has been providing its police and customs forces with the human and technical means that place them on a par with their European counterparts.

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This improved efficiency has been sought and achieved by the implementation of the so-called project LIFE, approved in March 1987. Its 30 measures dealing with the areas of primary prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social integration of drug addicts, as well as with the fight against trafficking per se have been gradually carried out.

Special attention has been paid to the legal aspects in the search for more correct and harmonious legislative solutions for such delicate issues as the intervention of judicial and therapeutic institutions in dealing with drug addicts; the discipline of controlled deliveries, undercover agents or the seizure of goods and money that result from trafficking; the co-ordination of action aimed at preventing the laundering of money from drug trafficking or for solving the legal problems raised by the Vienna Convention of 20 December 1988 on the illicit trafficking of narcotics, so as to enable the ratification of this Convention, one hopes in the near future.

It should be noted that already in 1983 a pioneer law went into force in Portugal with the objective of ensuring a more efficient use of the instruments of action. Different penalties are applied taking into consideration whether the criminals are large-scale dealers, small dealers or dealer-addicts. It devotes special attention to the property and wealth accumulated by drug traffickers. In fact, being convicted of the crime of trafficking results in the confiscation by the State, not only of the substances and products used or intended for the crime in question, but also of all objects, rights and advantages that have been acquired through the crime or are in the possession of the criminal, namely, fixed and non-fixed assets: aircraft, boats, vehicles, bank deposits or any other financial assets.

Portugal, as a country with a history that goes back for centuries, proud of a

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culture and a language that are eminently multicontinental, and as a member of the European Community, is fully aware of its responsibilities. It is therefore totally committed to the success of this world crusade.

It is important that the international community, of which we are all members, be aware of the determination that it must show in the repudiation of this phenomenon. Concurrently with the study of the trafficking and co-ordination of operations, we must above all be convinced of our collective responsibility and agree that phenomena of this nature must be fought and not merely discussed.

This fight should be equally directed against all its facets. No privileges can be granted; no area can be exempted. This being a continuing and global process, it can be destroyed only by means of a continuing and global action.

This is an area in which time is running dramatically short, in which the optimal is the enemy of the good, in which it is better to receive the criticism of future generations for what we have achieved, albeit inadequately, than for what we have left undone.

There can be no greater weight on the conscience of free and well-formed peoples, which we all consider ourselves to be, than the sensation that we have not done everything we could for the total eradication of this scourge.

Permit me to say a final word of profound admiration for the Colombian people and its President. Their example in the fight against the production and use of and trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances and the suffering the entire popuation has consciously chosen to endure in the interest of an action as courageous as it is necessary should make us all reflect. And the best way of showing our support and recognition of the example Colombia has given the world is not to leave that country alone in one of the most legitimate fights to which mankind has ever been called upon to respond.

(Mr. Nogueira, Portugal)

Portugal thus declares its unequivocal agreement with the need to adopt at this session a political declaration and a global programme of action. We also understand that giving a vote of confidence to the United Nations system will require increasing resources available to the fight against drug production, trafficking and abuse. Together with our European Community partners, we are willing to analyse this prospect seriously.

Portugal is deeply committed to the strengthening and development of the capacity of the United Nations aimed at a more efficient co-ordination of co-operation at the international, regional and national levels against the threat posed by narcotic drugs.

Portugal is and will always be supportive of everything that can be done to preserve human life and dignity as values of our universal heritage that must be respected and defended by all in an active manner.

Ms. HALONEN (Finland): The issues concerning drug abuse form one of the most difficult problems of the international community today. It involves the ill-being of the welfare States, the subsistence problems of the developing countries as well as internationally organized crime.

One of the central questions in the fight against drug abuse is the development of an adequate social security system. Furthermore, societies should be able to offer appropriate opportunities for your people to participate in developing society.

As regards the United Nations, the global programme of action should be given priority, both financially and functionally, in the various United Nations bodies. In this context it should be carefully considered whether the existing structure of the United Nations Narcotics Units is the most appropriate, taking also into account the new challenges presented by the global plan of action. The sectors of this programme should meet the multiple needs of member countries, the promotion of

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social security and welfare being one of the most important among these needs. We believe that the United Nations should play an active role in this context and we would like to stress the need for increased co-ordination within the United Nations system of activities in this field.

Furthermore, Finland stresses the importance of United Nations Conventions and Treaties concerning narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as one of the basic factors in international co-operation.

We support the main principles of the draft plan of action. In this context I should like to bring up only certain details I consider important.

It is self-evident that the demand for illicit drugs must be reduced in the consumer countries at the same time as the supply of illicit drugs is reduced in the producer countries. They are measures of equal importance to be implemented simultaneously. If production is not reduced, the reduction of demand in one country or one region will result in the marketing of illicit drugs elsewhere. However, the production of illicit drugs is not the only problem. International drug dealers and drug traffickers aim also at active and skilful marketing, nurturing new interest and increasing demand. Social, economic and political problems create favourable conditions for both the demand and the supply of illicit drugs.

Reducing the production of drugs will succeed only if financially profitable crop substitution or alternative production is available. The mere destruction of drug production will result in poverty and social problems, creating a basis for inequality and recurrent illegal cultivation of drug crops. An ideal result can be achieved only by means of financially profitable and sensible crop substitution or alternative production.

(Ms. Halonen, Finland)

Development co-operation in the field of illicit drugs should concentrate more on support for crop substitution. Demand for and supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances can be reduced by providing alternative sources of income for the producers and by improving their living conditions - by building roads, houses and schools, by providing electricity and sanitary facilities, and by developing health-care and social-welfare services. In this way, the growers of drugs can also be transferred to more constructive activities. The whole of society in the producer countries should be developed in order to make those countries better places in which to live. Social and health programmes should be set up, particularly to improve conditions in the producer regions and among abuse groups, which are in the most difficult position. The problems caused by the production of narcotic drugs, as well as the local problems caused by increasing drug abuse, should be taken into consideration in development co-operation with the countries where these problems exist.

As part of its development co-operation, the Government of Finland, through the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC), has supported four African countries in their fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs. Health education and the training of health-care personnel, social workers and drug-control authorities have been included in these programmes. As the results of this co-operation have been encouraging, the Government of Finland is considering continuing the programmes beyond 1990.

In Afghanistan the so-called opium-poppy clause is applied in development co-operation programmes. According to this clause, co-operation programmes should not facilitate the illegal production of opium. I propose that the opium-poppy clause be extended to cover all forms of illegal production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In other words, the development co-operation programmes

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should be so planned that they do not - even indirectly - support the illegal production of narcotic drugs or benefit those engaged in it.

We must all preserve nature in order to protect the world of future generations from environmental catastrophe. Nowadays narcotic crops are eradicated by various methods - for example, by the use of herbicides and other environmental poisons. Such coercive methods of reducing production may be disastrous for the environment.

On the other hand, more and more rain forests are burnt to promote the cultivation of narcotic drugs. This causes erosion, as well as smoke and carbon-dioxide problems. The soil is treated with effective fertilizers, which end up in the waterways. Moreover, chemicals that are environmentally detrimental, such as sulphuric acid, kerosene and solvents, are used in illegal laboratories for the refinement of opium and cocaine. Enormous amounts of these harmful substances end up in the waterways, polluting and destroying micro-organisms. I propose that the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi start assessment and research work on this problem, and try to find solutions in order to prevent environmental catastrophes.

Finland is one of the Nordic countries, where the drug problem has remained relatively well under control. Nevertheless, we monitor the drug situation watchfully and take preventive measures. Finland participates actively in the well-established Nordic co-operation, on which detailed information is provided in document A/S-17/6. Co-operation and co-ordination between the Nordic countries is not confined to their own region but is carried out also in the international context, as has already been stressed here by the representatives of other Nordic countries.

(Ms. Halonen, Finland)

Finland also participates in the work of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe and in the work of the United Nations. For example, as one of the major donor countries, it supports the activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. We invite more and more countries to support United Nations drug-control units by providing both expertise and financial resources.

This special session bears witness to the unanimous international concern about the seriousness of drug problems. We must not lose this momentum. My Government looks forward to far-reaching decisions from this session - decisions that will help and inspire all countries to take further concrete action.

Mr. SHIHABI (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): It is a pleasure, on behalf of my country, to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the General Assembly at the seventeenth special session on the question of international co-operation against the illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs. You deserve the great appreciation of the international community, which has witnessed your wise leadership since your unanimous election as President of the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session.

We are here today to confront the problem of drugs, which has become a threat to the very foundations of human society. There is no disagreement over the fact that accelerating illegal production of, trafficking in, and demand for, drugs and psychotropic substances constitutes criminal activity that affects all countries and inflicts great damage on the economic, cultural and political foundations of society, because it attacks man's mental and psychological faculties, which are his greatest gift.

It is a catastrophe - one which, if not confronted, eliminated and left behind, will defeat us and leave us behind. What a plague this is: It destroys

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all the individual's productive powers. It transforms him into a beast - an animal unaware of what he is doing; a danger to himself; a threat to society; carrier of a dangerous infection transmitting its ills. What a plague indeed: It destroys man's means of success and strikes at the foundations of prosperous countries. Dealing with it is a collective responsibility, an international responsibility. The world community, with all its potential, must confront it in solidarity. I am sure that, by the time we have concluded our work, we shall have a clear idea about how to co-ordinate and strengthen international action to combat the drug problem. This is a war involving multifaceted forms and fronts.

We support the current tendency to strengthen the role of the United Nations and its organs in measures taken in this field. The crisis is past the stage where each country can deal separately with it.

(Mr. Shihabi, Saudi Arabia)

The question, as many speakers have stated, requires a collective effort on the part of us all. It requires co-ordinating and facilitating co-operation for the exchange of information and the establishment of liaison networks and the taking of all necessary measures to eliminate drugs from the source to the consumer. A concerted effort is required at the local, regional and international levels. Every day that passes is important - it is precious time that we either use or lose.

We in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are facing this problem in its three aspects, namely, local, regional and international. At the local level, like other countries and societies, we face criminal attempts which deny all human values in order to spread drugs, but which have not reached the crisis stage suffered by other countries. There is no cultivation of narcotic plants in the country, neither is there the industry nor the conversion of such substances. The statistics on drugs that are discovered show that numerous varieties spread in many other countries are not present. We confront the problem with a dual plan that includes preventive measures and measures to combat and interdict drugs and their distribution and use. In the area of prevention, the authorities concerned are conducting a vigorous educational campaign through the news media, including schools and institutions, and at the public level in a manner that strengthens the patriotic feeling of responsibility and the commitment to the dictates of religion. These efforts aim primarily at preventing the formation of a drug-addiction personality, which is among the most important links to the problem internally.

A high national committee has been established from among high Government officials with the mission of developing, approving and executing educational programmes and plans. And even as I address the Assembly, a large mobile caravan

(Mr. Shihabi, Saudi Arabia)

is travelling throughout the Kingdom with the goal of enlightening the people about the dangers of drugs. That programme was organized by the high national committee against drugs in co-operation with the anti-drug authorities. It shows the public the dangers of drugs and the means to combat them. It uses the most advanced scientific and technical methods of printed and audio-visual materials to spread its message through meetings, seminars and plays. That programme has achieved great success, and it might be used in brotherly neighbouring countries to disseminate its message. The Government has established "El-Amal", specialized hospitals equipped with the latest in science and expertise to treat and rehabilitate addicts free of charge.

In the field of combating drugs, the law in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is derived from the Islamic Shariah, considers the use of drugs to be a crime. It imposes the strictest penalties, including capital punishment, on those who are convicted of drug smuggling or trafficking.

Our efforts in combating drugs have had good results so far and have helped to narrow the problem of drug smuggling and trafficking.

On the regional and international levels, the Government of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques is dealing with the problem by attaching great importance to the role of regional and international co-operation, especially in view of the fact that the problem has come to us from the outside. Its basic deadly, criminal elements - both material and human - are outside the country as well.

The Kingdom - a member of the Near and Middle East Sub-Committee on the drug problem - has participated in all Arab and international efforts to develop strategies for combating drugs. The Government has intensified its co-operation

(Mr. Shihabi, Saudi Arabia)

with neighbouring countries, especially the Arab Gulf countries and other brotherly Arab countries. It has signed an agreement on the extradition of criminals with the countries of the Arab League. It is also linked by bilateral agreements with most of the Arab Gulf countries and other friendly countries, including drug-producing countries and transit countries. Those agreements include provisions for co-operation on the exchange of information related to drug crimes and co-operation on combating such crimes. Co-operation has been effectively expanded between the agencies combating drugs in the Kingdom and similar agencies in many countries, including some of the producing and transit countries.

The Kingdom participated in concluding the comprehensive Arab Convention on Drugs, which was approved by the Arab Interior Ministers' Council in 1986, as well as in drawing up and adopting Arab strategies to combat the illegal use of drugs and psychotropic substances, which were adopted by the Arab Interior Ministers' Council in the same year.

The Kingdom has joined the 1961 Single Convention on Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and signed the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which was adopted in 1988, and procedures are under way to ratify it. That Convention should come into force as soon as possible in order to enhance international action.

The Government of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques has also lent its support to some friendly countries which are experiencing difficulties in combating the problem. These include technical equipment and material and the means of communication and transportation to assist anti-drug authorities in performing their duties.

(Mr. Shihabi, Saudi Arabia)

My country's Government shares the opinion that the problem of combating the production, distribution and use of drugs is a common international problem which requires expanding and co-ordinating international co-operation in order to deal with it and eradicate it. We realize that the problem is without borders: it is a crime that knows no boundaries. International co-operation is necessary in order to ensure protection against drugs and to combat drugs, and such co-operation should include maximum exchange of legal assistance in all follow-up investigations and other legal procedures related to drug crimes. We must endeavour to reach bilateral and regional agreements to strengthen the exchange and extradition of criminals convicted of those offences. We appreciate the dangerous nature of this crime and the need to impose harsher penalties to deter the criminals. That is the only means - rather, the only hope - to reach the shore of safety.

(Mr. Shihabi, Saudi Arabia)

The whole chain is made up of links of responsibility: from the producing country, to stages of transit, to smuggling, to the crossing of borders, to storage, to distribution, and then to the consumers' market, which is the main factor, with its overwhelming temptation, and the final objective in this chain of crimes.

I should like in the clearest terms to affirm the readiness of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Abdul Bin Aziz, to co-operate fully with the United Nations and with other countries in support of all the efforts to combat the illegal trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances. We have great hope that we will conclude this special session by establishing a firm foundation on which will depend the concerted efforts of the international community.

Mr. PAWLAK (Poland): Drug abuse is a social evil that during the last decade turned into a serious challenge to the well-being of modern society. Drug abuse creates distress and misery in numerous countries around the world, both rich and poor, both locally and on an international scale. It fosters anti-social behaviour among people, and it breeds crime. The specific nature of drug-abuse problems makes illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs a highly profitable criminal activity.

The international community was quick to recognize the dangers connected with the spread of drug abuse, and it created institutions which co-ordinate national and international efforts to combat drug abuse and drug trafficking. The International Narcotic Control Board supervizes the licit trade in narcotic and psychotropic substances. The United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs oversees the implementation of other elements of control established under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances. The International Organization of Criminal Police (Interpol) and the Customs

(Mr. Pawlak, Poland)

Co-operation Council have increased their respective efforts to interdict the flow of illicit drugs from one country to another. Those continuous activities have in recent years been complemented by special events. In 1987 the United Nations Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held in Vienna. It adopted an important document: the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control. In 1988 a new Convention, the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances was elaborated and opened for signature by States. All of this shows the willingness of Governments to face up to their responsibililities in combating drug abuse and drug trafficking.

Notwithstanding all those efforts, and numerous successes in various parts of the world, the fight against drug abuse and drug trafficking is far from won. Hence the need to strengthen such efforts on a global scale and the decision to hold the present special session of the General Assembly with a view to expanding the scope and increasing the effectiveness of such co-operation. The session must review the critical elements of the drug situation in individual countries and indicate ways and means of supporting individual endeavours to make them more efficient internationally.

The phenomenon of drug abuse has not spared Poland. It emerged as a national problem in the 1970s. The specific features of the drug situation in Poland have already been presented in various United Nations bodies, and only a brief description need be given here.

The main drugs of abuse are opiates derived directly from the poppy plant. The poppy has been cultivated in Poland, as in other Central European countries, for the production of seeds. The spread of drug abuse turned that plant into a source of home-grown poppies for drug abusers. In 1985 restrictive measures had to be introduced in respect of poppy cultivation by farmers. That considerably

(Mr. Pawlak, Poland)

reduced unauthorized access to poppy straw by addicts. As a result, that type of drug abuse became less widespread and the upward trend observed in the number of addicts has been reversed. Simultaneously various efforts were also undertaken by governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations, including the Catholic Church, to expand prevention through the education of young persons as to the dangers of drug abuse. Efforts were also made towards better addict rehabilitation.

However, when all of these activities started to bear fruit another danger appeared: the AIDS epidemic among drug abusers, which is linked to the intravenous mode of administering home-made extracts of poppy straw. At the end of 1989 several hundred HIV-positive persons were recognized among drug abusers, and in Poland the drug-abuse community became the main group contaminated with the HIV virus. Appropriate measures are being undertaken by the health authorities, but the situation remains of concern.

There are no international ramifications linked to opiates made locally in Poland as the extracts are unstable and have to be used rather rapidly. A greater anxiety, from the international point of view, is the emergence of Poland as a place where some chemical precursors are processed by criminals into amphetamine, a psychotropic substance exported illicitly to Western and Northern Europe. Polish custom authorities and the criminal police were able to interdict some such shipments and confiscate the products. Close co-operation is being established with the police authorities of the target countries - Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany and Sweden - to prevent the expansion of such illicit activities.

Poland is actively participating in international efforts to fight drug abuse and drug trafficking. Poland is a member of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The Polish delegation actively co-operated in the preparatory work

(Mr. Pawlak, Poland)

on the new Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Poland signed the Convention in March 1989, and the necessary steps are now being taken by governmental departments to permit the speedy ratification of that Treaty. Once in force it should facilitate our fight against the illicit production of psychotropic substances because it will introduce international control over various chemical precursors that are at present freely available on international markets. The Convention will also facilitate the process of extraditing persons accused as drug traffickers. At present, Polish law permits the extradition of foreigners accused of serious crimes when specific conditions are met, and the judicial authorities are using those statutes in cases in which they are requested to extradite foreign drug traffickers or foreigners accused of drug trafficking who are apprehended in Poland. Ratification of the new Convention will make the procedure more straightforward.

(Mr. Pawlak, Poland)

The international community has the right to expect that the present special session of the General Assembly will result in major advances in the fight against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The outcome of the session should be concrete and realistic and should contribute to the strengthening of international co-operation in this field by expanding its scope and increasing its effectiveness, with strict respect for the sovereignty of States and the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs.

The two documents which are to be adopted by the special session - a political declaration and a global programme of action - are of particular relevance. By adopting and fully and speedily implementing them, the international community will reaffirm its commitment to achieving the goal of a world free of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. The global programme must be action-oriented and have concrete, comprehensive and long-term objectives. It should place equal emphasis on the suppression of illicit traffic and on measures aimed at demand reduction and on treatment and rehabilitation, as recommended in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline, which ought to serve as a strong basis for the global programme.

At this stage, let me briefly comment on some of the points in the global programme of action.

The primary responsibility for dealing with drug abuse and illicit trafficking rests with each individual State, which has to take necessary legislative measures and ensure their effective implementation. International co-operation, although indispensable, cannot replace resolute action at the national level. The success of the latter depends, however, on the supportive and complementary action at the regional and international levels.

(Mr. Pawlak, Poland)

The campaign against the illicit supply of and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances can have lasting effects only if States undertake determined efforts to reduce demand. To that end, national structures for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation are necessary and strong measures to reduce demand must be vigorously pursued.

We consider that the world ministerial summit to reduce demand for drugs and to combat the cocaine threat, to be held in London from 9 to 11 April 1990, can give further impetus to increasing the international commitment in this respect.

The United Nations has achieved significant results in the field of drug-abuse control and it should continue to be the main focus for concerted action and should play an enhanced role in this field. The maximum use ought to be made of the existing mandates and structures, which must pursue co-ordinated objectives in the most efficient and rational way. We welcome in this context the decision of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly to establish an expert group to advise on the structural arrangements for drug-abuse control, and we agree with the Secretary-General that the emphasis must be on streamlining existing arrangements and making them more effective, not on creating additional bureaucratic structures.

The question of resources to be allocated to the United Nations structures for drug-abuse control is of key importance, especially in the light of their increased responsibilities and ambitious programmes. Priority should be given to the optimal utilization of existing resources and to the provision of extrabudgetary resources on a short-term and long-term basis. In this regard we regard as interesting the proposal that all States should commit themselves to making the confiscated profits from illegal transactions available to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

(Mr. Pawlak, Poland)

The United Nations decade against drug abuse, covering the years 1991 to 2000, should be a period for intensifying and sustaining international, regional and national efforts in the fight against drugs, on the basis of the measures contained in the global programme of action. We fully support this idea because it would generate a global awareness, especially in producer and consumer States, of the evils of narcotics.

The fight against drug trafficking is a moral obligation resting on all Governments. Poland is participating in these efforts to the extent possible. We hope that the concerted action of all countries that are taking part in the special session of the General Assembly will bring the necessary success to the common cause.

Dame Nita BARROW (Barbados): The delegation of Barbados is pleased to see you, Sir, presiding over the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, to consider the question of international co-operation against the illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and pledges its full support and co-operation in the important task entrusted to you.

If I were to say to the General Assembly that the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking destroys the most important resource of a nation: its people, particularly the young; or that it undermines the economic and political stability of a nation; or that the consumption of and demand for illicit drugs have reached a new and alarming dimension, capable of destroying humanity; or that the value of the drugs industry is estimated to be second only to that of armaments - indeed, if I were to say all these nice things about one of the most terrifying phenomena stalking the international community, I would be saying nothing new.

(Dame Nita Barrow, Barbados)

Although this familiar litany of the horrors of drug abuse has been chanted to your ears before, and throughout this general debate, the delegation of Barbados considers that these grim facts demand repetition, for the international community cannot afford to be under any illusion about the gravity of the problem confronting us.

Drug syndicates are interlocking, powerful and ruthless, well organized, well armed with sophisticated weapons, well informed, with linkages within many a bureaucracy, and possess tremendous financial resources, enough to liquidate the national debt of many a developing country. Furthermore, they are vicious and merciless in disposing of anyone who dares to challenge their illicit interests. No country, no matter how powerful, how wealthy, is capable of fighting the drug menace alone. Small, island developing States, like Barbados, with limited resources earmarked for traditional areas of development and lacking in sophisticated machinery and infrastructure, are forced to rely heavily on bilateral, regional and multilateral assistance to respond to the ravages associated with newer and varied generations of illicit drugs.

(Dame Nita Barrow, Barbados)

But Governments in the Caribbean subregion are responding to the challenge and are collaborating with each other in many ways in the face of this universal threat. The Government of Barbados has launched a broad programme of education, targeting youth in particular; has trained its police and customs officers to improve their effectiveness in interdiction and law enforcement; and is reviewing its laws with the intention of increasing the penalties imposed on drug offenders and of enacting legislation to confiscate those assets, the acquisition of which can be traced to drug-related activities.

Non-governmental organizations are also collaborating with the Government in educating youth about the dangers of drug abuse and are seeking to establish an institution where drug users can be rehabilitated.

These efforts notwithstanding, small States like Barbados are unable to sustain an adequate response to the drug problem in such vital areas as interdiction, law enforcement, training, education, demand reduction and rehabilitation. Nevertheless, as was said by a previous speaker on Tuesday, 20 February,

> "... nor is there any country here so small that it cannot support in some way this important international effort". (A/S-17/PV.2, p. 34)

The fervour with which Member States responded to President Barco's proposal that the General Assembly should convene a special session devoted to drugs indicated a strong resolve within the international community that the role of the United Nations should be appropriately enhanced to lead the fight against the rise of narco-terrorism threatening to engulf our societies.

The role of the United Nations has always been pivotal in co-ordinating responses to regional or global crises, and so this present drug phenomenon must not be allowed to conquer our collective will.

(Dame Nita Barrow, Barbados)

My delegation wishes to commend the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC), the International Narcotic Control Board and the Division on Narcotic Drugs for the useful work they have undertaken over the years, in particular UNFDAC for its delivery of technical co-operation programmes to developing countries in the field of drug abuse control.

The Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline in Future Activities on Drug Abuse Control, adopted in Vienna in 1987, and the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, adopted in Vienna in 1988, provide the international community with an effective framework for taking decisive action against the menace posed by the production, supply and demand of illicit drugs. These measures are somewhat dormant and must be activated. Complementary to these are various resolutions adopted during the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, for example, resolution 44/141 and so on, all of which have the potential of reinforcing this framework. The initiatives of two Caribbean States, sponsored by all States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), are included in those resolutions, which my delegation considers to be eminently deserving of inclusion in the global plan of action.

My delegation welcomes the co-operative agreement on drugs signed in Cartagena on 15 February 1990 by the Presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and the United States. We hope that this agreement will have a positive impact on drug-related activities in the Caribbean subregion and will also serve as a fillip for other agreements elsewhere in this important area of drug-demand reduction. My delegation also welcomes the convening, in April 1990, of a world ministerial summit on drug-demand reduction by the Government of the United Kingdom in association with the United Nations. This, too, is a laudable initiative from which my delegation hopes will emerge further positive results.

(Dame Nita Barrow, Barbados)

Many delegations have termed this special session an historic occasion and have called on the United Nations to play an enhanced role in co-ordinating the fight against drugs.

But how best can the role of the United Nations be enhanced? Does the answer reside in ratification of the 1988 Vienna Convention on drugs by 20 States in order that the Convention may enter into force without further delay? Does it reside in the execution of the measures recommended in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control? Does it reside in streamlining the activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, the United Nations Division on Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board to enhance their efficiency? Does it reside in a greater infusion of resources by Member States into the United Nations system in order that the Organization may undertake the execution of a co-ordinated international strategy to fight drug trafficking across the globe? Or does it reside in the demonstration of a strong political will of Member States to act decisively on the measures that this special session will adopt in the global plan of action? The delegation of Barbados answers yes to all the queries just posed, not singly but all.

My delegation hopes that throughout our deliberations Member States will display the tenacity commensurate with the serious problem confronting us. We must commit ourselves to no less a goal. Let us eschew the adoption of measures weakened by a desire to issue a final document based on consensus. Let the message in the political declaration and the global plan of action be resounding and unyielding in response to the narco-threat. Let us not be guided by narrow self-interests nor indulge in recrimination as to which nation or nations, or what region or regions, are culpable for the drug phenomenon. Let our task be the pursuit of the greater good of all humanity.

(Dame Nita Barrow, Barbados)

To these ideals the delegation of Barbados pledges its full support, for it is incumbent upon us all and within our competence to fight drug abuse, now throughout this decade, and to continue that fight into the next century, if necessary, until mankind is rid of this menace that now threatens to ungulf us.

Mr. BEATTY (Canada): It was not long ago that President Barco of Colombia stood here at the United Nations and said:

> "Every tactic and every weapon in the war against narcotics pales into insignificance compared with the need to reduce demand. ... Those who consumer cocaine are contributing to the assassination of my people by the criminal drug cartels". (A/44/PV.13, p. 12)

In Canada we take those words very seriously because we recognize that until users stop buying drugs suppliers will always find ways to get drugs into our country, find new supplies when old ones disappear and find ways to frustrate our every effort to stop them.

(Mr. Beatty, Canada)

We have a nation renowned for its vast size. Our own Canadian North is a symbol of remoteness; yet when I visited the North a few years ago as Solicitor-General of Canada I was told that drugs were the major problem confronting our police. Even hundreds of kilometres from the great metropolitan centres, there are always drugs available. The only thing that changes with remoteness is cost.

We recognize that recent international efforts at curtailing the production and distribution of illicit drugs merit our complete respect and support. We ourselves have intensified our coastal surveillance operations, our inspection and analysis of cargoes moving overland into our country, and our training of interception teams.

But experience has taught us that, so long as some Canadians are prepared to spend an amount estimated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to be $10 billion a year, subsidizing murder and bloodshed by paying criminals to supply them with drugs, it will be impossible to stop the availability of drugs in our country.

Three years ago Prime Minister Mulroney spoke of an epidemic of drugs in Canada. Some commentators at the time considered such a description alarmist. But it is clear today that the Prime Minister was right to urge a concerted national effort against drugs. Under his leadership, Canada embarked on a national drug strategy, which drew resources into a co-ordinated and balanced effort to combat the problems facing us.

Our drug strategy is, on the surface, a network - a network of departments, agencies, institutions and organizations, whose mandate, experience and vision might help us to break the links between drug supplier and drug user. As can be seen, this balance between supply and demand is a key element of our programme.

(Mr. Beatty, Canada)

The Federal Government spends $300 million annually on detection, prosecution and detention in fighting drugs. Each year federal, provincial and local governments spend more than $8 billion on health care for drug and alcohol abusers. But we needed an overall strategy that would pull our disparate programmes together. In May 1987 our Government committed an additional $210 million to the national drug strategy, to launch important new initiatives to deal with both demand and supply.

This funding takes our drug strategy through five years of programming. Some 70 per cent of the allocated funds go to education, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, with about 30 per cent going to enforcement and control. These figures reveal our priorities. Our first emphasis is clearly on reducing demand - helping people to get off and stay off drugs.

Our national drug strategy contains specific undertakings in a wide range of complementary areas. A major communications programme directed at young Canadians and their parents has proved its worth by inspiring 70 per cent of adult viewers surveyed to talk to their children about drugs, and 70 per cent of young viewers to reconsider taking them.

Recognizing that many nations have tightened their drug laws as part of the global fight against drugs, we now inform Canadian travellers in direct language about the risks they face if they acquire illegal substances abroad.

Even in prisons, where we maintain 24-hour supervision, we have not yet been able to get rid of drugs completely. Indeed, a high percentage of our inmate population enter prison with serious alcohol- or drug-related problems. In order to ease the transition from prison to society, we run pre-release programmes for prison inmates to help them identify high-risk drug situations and find support groups within their communities.

(Mr. Beatty, Canada)

A similar transition programme is offered to our young people, who are moving from school to the work-force. Targeted at drug- and alcohol-dependent youth, the programme increases their employability, while developing their ability to reject drugs.

(spoke in French)

As I stated at the outset, we believe in a balanced strategy that deals with both supply and demand. We realize that concentrating exclusively on attempts to cut supply simply will not put a stop to our drug problem. But we are equally aware that the easy availability of drugs promotes their abuse.

Programmes designed to stop the entry of drugs into our country continue to be a key element in our strategy.

One of the great frustrations for police forces in Canada in the past has been that we could seize a criminal, put him in gaol and have him sitting there with a bank account with drug money in it which could not be touched. For that reason, early last year, we enacted our proceeds-of-crime legislation, which gives us the ability to seize that money. Our goal is to take the profit out of the crime.

A related initiative is the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) anti-drug profiteering programme, which trains police to be able to identify drug money as it is laundered through Canadian financial institutions.

The RCMP has also made strides to strengthen their relationships with municipal and provincial police forces across Canada, and, internationally, it has established permanent liaison posts in New York, Miami and Los Angeles.

(continued in English)

Our country has the world's longest coastline. For drug traffickers, this massive coastline is perhaps Canada's most attractive geographic feature. To deal with the problem, we have improved co-operation and co-ordination of our coastal

(Mr. Beatty, Canada)

resources. Practical arrangements between National Defence, the Canadian Coast Guard and the RCMP have increased transportation and surveillance systems to fight drug trafficking.

These are just some of the 48 initiatives belonging to the national drug strategy. Many of them are achieving obvious success, but others have been exceptionally difficult to evaluate.

If there is one lesson we have learned, it is that comprehensive means of evaluating progress must be developed and put in place as soon as any programme begins. In work as complex as this, a basic barometer of success or failure is an indispensable tool.

In spite of the complexity of the problem and the difficulty of evaluation, we have seen some encouraging signs of success. Over the years, our experience with demand-reduction programmes has been very positive indeed.

After almost 10 years of national demand-reduction programmes, we are finally seeing a sustained decline in the use of alcohol and certain drugs.

We are confident that both the philosophy and the direction of our programmes are appropriate, realistic and effective. But we recognize that problems in Canada cannot be solved in isolation.

The United Nations recently concluded the Vienna Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Canada hopes to ratify that Convention within a year. Within a few months, we hope to increase our contribution to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, reaching the amount of one million Canadian dollars.

Canada has gone beyond these initiatives into other fields: building a network of bilateral mutual-legal-assistance treaties; updating extradition treaties; observing the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission; participating

(Mr. Beatty, Canada)

actively in the Financial Action Task Force; contributing bilateral aid programmes to crop-substitution efforts in countries such as Thailand and Pakistan; and coming recently to the assistance of the Government of Colombia in its war against the drug cartel.

Our experiences in the international forum, like those at home, have taught us that any initiative must focus on clearly articulated, achievable objectives. Nothing else will work. In the global plan of action, we urge that such objectives be set and that attention be given to the following four recommendations.

First, more emphasis has to be placed upon data collection, to build the tools that will enable us to target key groups of people susceptible to drug-abuse-control problems, and to measure progress.

Second, demand-reduction strategies must include new ways of fostering international co-operation. New professional networks, expert exchanges, cross-secondment of personnel, lending of educational material, inventories of national strategies, and a United Nations-sanctioned series of centres of excellence in the area of drug-abuse control are some innovative ways of fostering international co-operation consistent with national drug-abuse-control objectives of reducing demand.

Third, new forms of international co-ordination and co-operation must be developed to address trafficking itself. Canada, for example, has worked effectively with the Crime Prevention and Control Branch of the Vienna Centre to ensure that information on money-laundering will go before the impending United Nations crime-prevention congress. There should be no sanctuaries, no havens, for those who profit from the misery of other States and individuals. Similarly, law-enforcement-co-operation activities must be developed to help States overwhelmed by the power and influence of the drug cartels.

(Mr. Beatty, Canada)

We recognize that the drug-abuse-control problem is multi-faceted and requires action on many fronts. Canada commends the Governments of the United States, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia for arriving at the Declaration of Cartagena, which outlines a comprehensive approach to the problem.

Fourth, systems within the United Nations dealing with drug-abuse-control issues must be reviewed, and modified if necessary. Approaches created years ago to deal with smaller problems are no longer adequate. We pledge our experience and expertise in whatever situation demands them. Whether it be in the writing of practical legislation, the training of police officers and judges, intelligence gathering, the establishment of forensic laboratories, the evaluation of treatment programmes, programmes to promote the reintegration of workers into the labour force, or the drafting of mutual-legal-assistance and extradition treaties, we wish to be of service.

Most important, we believe that global efforts to diminish the tragic effects of drugs can be effective only if simultaneous attention is paid to user and supplier.

(Mr. Beatty, Canada)

If addicts are to succeed when they go off drugs, they must muster every internal resource - physical, emotional and spiritual - and have open access to professional support. In Canada, we have come to understand that the same is true for society as a whole.

The heartless greed and opportunism of the traffickers are an evil that no civilized society can tolerate. There can be no safe haven for those who profit from the suffering and death of other human beings.

But we must never forget that it is in the frailty of the victim, in the vulnerability and distintegration of the individual who uses these substances, that we may find the secrets from which the most dramatic results may yet spring. Preventing them from being exploited and helping them become productive members of society is a challenge that is worthy of all our efforts.

Mr. DAZA (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): Sir, first I should like to associate myself with the preceding speakers in congratulating you on your election to preside over our debates. We are convinced that your personal qualifications and sense of objectivity will ensure the success of this special session.

Before entering into the substantive part of my statement, I hope that I will be excused if I introduce a personal element in my statement. This will be my last statement before the General Assembly before I return to my country. For six years I have been doing work which has sometimes been difficult, from a professional standpoint, but very rewarding work personally, and during those six years I have had the privilege of seeing from the Assembly changes in the world. The world is different today from the world of six years ago. This Assembly is different today from that of six years ago. Everything has changed and, in a way, we ourselves have also changed, each and every one of us. I am very pleased that my last

(Mr. Daza, Chile)

statement is one in which the factors that unite us are much stronger than those that divide us. There are no ideological divisions with respect to the fight against drugs. The cold war, which is fast disappearing from the world, has no place and cannot have any place where the drug problem is concerned. Here what we must develop is a war of wills against that evil. The problem of the production, trafficking and illicit consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances constitutes one of today's most serious ills which mankind must confront. That is why the growing concern and the wish of this world Organization to hold a special session devoted exclusively to the study of this problem and to the adoption of effective measures to combat it is totally justified and necessary. Given the universal nature of the problem, no country can legitimately refrain from contributing with its own ideas and suggestions to the quest for appropriate and realistic solutions.

My own country has shared this global concern, and even though on its territory the problem does not exist on the same dramatic and serious scale as it does in other countries, we have developed a national policy to prevent drug abuse and also to reduce demand. We have begun the struggle against drugs before the problem gets out of control and out of hand.

My country is applying this policy because of the urgent need to stem from the outset the dangerous development of the series of illicit activities that derive from the indiscriminate use and consumption of drugs and narcotics. Given the current economic situation in Chile, my country also constitutes a potentially important market within the region, and that is why the problem must be studied with special care. We believe that policies of co-operation for prevention must be geared not only towards the countries that are most directly affected by this

(Mr. Daza, Chile)

scourge, but also towards those which, like Chile, are endeavouring to apply measures of different types in order to try to avoid the spread of the problem. Accordingly, the economic assistance provided by international drug-control agencies should include incentives for those countries, such as mine, that have to channel resources towards prevention.

Both in the development and the implementation of a policy of prevention, our national drug commission has played an important role in my country as an advisory body under the presidency of the Republic, with the mission of studying the problem of drug addiction and taking measures that can combat that evil at the national level.

Among the actions undertaken by Chile, we should like to underscore the entry into force of law No. 18.403, which establishes specific penal sanctions for those who, without due authorization, produce, process or extract narcotic or psychotropic substances that cause physical or psychological addiction and are capable of producing serious toxic effects or considerable harm to public health.

In the field of the implementation of drug legislation, the Republic of Chile has also done intensive and outstanding work which has been carried out efficiently by militia and police investigators. Those entities have broken the networks of foreign and national traffickers and have intercepted shipments on our seas. It should be pointed out that over the past year seizures of cocaine have increased by 300 per cent over 1988, a figure which indicates the seriousness and potential magnitude of this problem. In carrying out these actions, the aforementioned agencies have made available to the court system all the background information obtained so that it is the courts, under our legislation, that apply the corresponding penalties.

(Mr. Daza, Chile)

As a result of these actions, it is useful to recall that my country has complete statistical data concerning drug seizures, the number of traffickers arrested and also information on producers and consumers of this product.

With respect to prevention, we should like to point out that the Ministries of the Interior, Health, Education and Justice in Chile are doing extremely important work, each within its respective sphere of jurisdiction, in order to avoid the spread of this scourge, and to see to it that the population truly becomes aware of the seriousness and dangers of the illicit use of drugs and psychotropic substances.

The establishment of community youth centres geared towards the prevention of drug addiction, the care provided in basic clinics, the implementation of special programmes geared towards youth, the information campaign and the training of professionals constitute just some of the actions that we have taken in order to implement this policy of prevention.

(Mr. Daza, Chile)

Our experience indicates that the drugs most frequently abused in Chile by the adolescent and young adult population are cannabis sativa, commonly known as marijuana, pscyo-pharmacological products and volatile solvents. It should be pointed out that the latter product is used by children between the ages of 5 and 15 from low income families.

The Assembly will be aware that this practice has extremely harmful effects since these children run the risk of steady decline, because the very fact of using drugs makes it more difficult for them to make an effort to overcome their unfortunate situation.

In recent years a cocaine-based paste called basuko has been added to the list, and its use is considered highly dangerous.

A computerized drug information system has made it possible for us to detect drug abuse. In 1988 we saw an increase in the consumption of codeine, methadone, morphine and pethidine, a spiralling trend that continued in 1989.

In addition to the global nature of the drug problem, there also exists a regional dimension. The fact that in the Western Hemisphere are located both large production and the main consumer market gives the problem a regional connotation that is particularly serious for Latin American countries. That explains why the Organization of American States has given the subject priority attention. The Rio de Janeiro Programme of Action and the establishment of a Latin American commission for drug abuse control are initiatives to which my Government attaches particular importance.

My delegation considers it appropriate and necessary to harmonize the norms and mechanisms established by the United Nations, including in particular the recent Vienna Convention, with the new agencies established by the inter-American system. As part of action to be taken at the regional level, we believe measures should also be adopted to control the illegal sale of what have been termed

(Mr. Daza, Chile)

chemical precursors by including in different legal orders norms on the import, export and use of chemical products essential for the production and processing of drugs. Effective control of the sale of these chemical precursors is essential to combat this scourge as effectively as possible.

There is a central aspect that cannot be neglected in any serious consideration of the drug problem. I refer to demand. As long as there exists a significant demand for illicit drugs and the money to pay for them, traffickers will always find a way to meet that demand. Let us make no mistake about this. We must be absolutely clear in this forum on this point, which undoubtedly constitutes one of the roots of the problem we are discussing. If no effective measures are adopted on this aspect of the problem, the efforts we are undertaking to find the most appropriate solutions will serve little or no purpose.

We must preserve the very nucleus of our society, which is the family. We believe the family is the basis for the channelling of efforts at education and prevention of both drug addiction and related problems. We believe such preventive education can have a very positive effect on the reduction of demand. The family is the starting-point in the fight against drugs since stronger family ties are our best hope for a better society.

The international community is witnessing a scene unprecedented in its history. Representatives of almost all the nations of this world have gathered here in New York to meet this new challenge. We believe that the political will exists to adopt effective measures. We cannot afford to waste this unique opportunity. As I have already said, our approach to this issue must not be affected by any political differences. That is why we believe the international community can and must adopt effective and practical measures. The Assembly must take effective and practical action.

(Mr. Daza, Chile)

While duly preserving our national sovereignty, let us shoulder our responsibility and adopt here and now those essential measures that will allow us to offer a better world to our children.

Mr. ZLENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): My delegation shares the view, repeatedly expressed in this Hall, that the very fact of the convening of the special session of the General Assembly testifies to the gravity of the danger posed by narcotics. One cannot fail to note that in recent years this problem has gone beyond the framework of a social disease and today, in various regions of the world, threatens the very peace and security of nations and is undermining friendly, good-neighbourly relations between States.

It is particularly alarming to note that millions of people are victims of drug addiction. And new, more dangerous types of narcotics are coming into being. Worst of all, not one State can consider itself free from drug addiction today, since it knows no geographical boundaries. One cannot fail to be aware of the extraordinarily dangerous nature of the narco-mafia's activities today. It draws into its net increasing numbers of new victims. The boundless financial resources gained from illicit narcotics trafficking enables the narco-business syndicates to undermine the political and economic foundations of States and to spread death and violence.

As a result we have the firm conviction that half-measures cannot resolve the problem of drug addiction. The disease has proved far more complex and deeply neglected than had been thought. Underestimation of its gravity resulted in previous measures touching upon only certain aspects of drug addition and completely neglecting others.

(Mr. Zlenko, Ukrainian SSR)

The adoption of additional, comprehensive, long-term measures at the global, regional and national levels can avert the progression of this disease and create prerequisites for its eradiction. It is essential that all aspects be encompassed in this process: illicit production, supply and demand, illicit trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances, treatment, and social rehabilitation of the stricken.

It is also clear that individual States cannot resolve the problem. The combined efforts of all members of the international community are needed. This special session provides an opportunity for such efforts. We hope it will be put to good use, because the course our discussion has taken confirms the unanimous desire of all States to put an end to the narcotic threat.

(Mr. Zlenko, Ukrainian SSR)

We do not wish to single out for special priority individual areas of the fight against drug addiction, but we consider it important to adopt effective measures for the elimination of drug trafficking, the development of programmes to substitute other crops for narcotic-drug crops, the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts, the prevention of the leakage of narcotic drugs and precursors into the illicit traffic, and the prevention of the laundering of profits from narco-business and the confiscation of such profits.

Obviously, measures adopted at the international level must be implemented on the basis of strict compliance with the norms and principles of international law. That applies equally to other problems that await solution.

The positive developments that have taken place in the present improving international climate have created quantitatively new conditions for precisely such an approach to the consideration of global problems. That, in turn, is conducive to the quest for mutually acceptable, non-confrontational solutions, inter alia through the United Nations, with the focus placed particularly on the interests of mankind and on human values as a whole. By maintaining such an approach we can achieve cardinal progress in overcoming opposition to, not to mention possible multiplication of, joint efforts in the fight against the narco-business.

We are deeply convinced of the importance of international co-operation in the fight against the illicit drug traffic. My delegation has proposed the inclusion in the final documents of the special session of an initiative to proclaim a United Nations decade against drug abuse. We believe that the proclamation of such a decade on the basis of measures set forth in the global programme of action would help focus the attention of the international community on the negative aspects of the problem of drug addiction and on the intensification of national and international efforts to eradicate the problem. In our opinion, this could become

(Mr. Zlenko, Ukrainian SSR)

one of the instruments for the implementation of the global programme of action and could help determine the framework for its implementation. The experience of United Nations decades in the past confirms the important role they can play in solving various political and social problems. We are grateful to the many delegations that have supported our proposal for the proclamation of a United Nations decade against drug abuse.

One important aspect of the attack on drug addiction is the strengthening of the basis in international law for action to counter this monstrous phenomenon. The Ukrainian SSR is a party to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and has been fulfilling its obligations under those international Conventions. We attach considerable significance to the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. That Convention is destined to become a substantive weapon in the fight against the drug dealers - these persons who commit horrendous crimes against their peoples and the peoples of other countries. The Ukrainian SSR took an active part in the preparation of the Convention, signed it and is at present preparing to ratify it. We wish to point out also that we are already acting in accordance with a number of the provisions of the Convention.

There has been a positive response in the Ukrainian SSR to the results of the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The terms of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline adopted at that Conference are being actively used in the Ukrainian SSR in the drafting of measures to enable law-enforcement agencies to deal with drug abuse, complementing the action of the public health agencies and schools.

We take this opportunity to confirm the important role of the United Nations in the fight against drugs and to emphasize the need to strengthen that role even

(Mr. Zlenko, Ukrainian SSR)

more. We attach great value to the organizational role of the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs and the work done by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and the International Narcotics Control Board. My delegation associates itself with the endorsement voiced here of the work of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Like other speakers, we also warmly welcomed the recent meeting of the Presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and the United States in Cartagena as an inspiring example of the development of regional co-operation in the fight against drugs.

One cannot fail to agree with the view expressed by various delegations here that measures taken by States at the national level are of decisive importance in the fight against drugs. Our experience certainly bears that out. The quest for a solution to the problem of drug addiction in the Ukrainian SSR is now State-wide. We have more than 27,000 registered narcotic drug users, out of a population of 52 million. More than half of those 27,000 narcotic drug users suffer from drug addiction. In the past three years 23,000 crimes related to drugs have been detected, and 24 tonnes of narcotics raw materials have been removed from circulation. In order to counter the drug threat, we have taken a number of measures to increase controls. We do not grow the opium poppy. In 1987 a law was adopted in the Ukrainian SSR prohibiting the cultivation of the oil poppy. The cultivation of State hemp crops has been strictly limited. There is greatly increased monitoring of the production, transport, tracking and storage of narcotic medicinal preparations, and strict penalties - up to 15 years in prison and confiscation of property - await distributors of narcotic drugs.

We realize, however, that the problem of drug addiction cannot be solved by law enforcement alone, and in our work we emphasize prevention, the elimination of the reasons and conditions that lead to the spread of drug addiction, as well as

(Mr. Zlenko, Ukrainian SSR)

the social rehabilitation of those who suffer from that addiction. Of course, there are still many shortcomings in our fight against this evil. But it is important that we are focusing on the disease and that measures have been identified for its progressive treatment.

In conclusion, the delegation of the Ukrainian SSR emphasizes again the importance of this special session and the documents on which it is working, as a qualitatively new step in the mobilization of the efforts of States to rid the international community of this truly global problem. Putting an end to this social sore is a vital requirement of our time, a duty incumbent on all of us.

Mr. SALAH (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): First, I wish to tell you, Sir, how pleased we are to see you presiding over the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to the consideration of international co-operation in the struggle against drug addiction. We are convinced that your proven skills, demonstrated during the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, will make it possible for the special session to have the positive results expected of it.

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

This special session is being held at a time when the problem of drug abuse is in evidence in all its dimensions. This problem is an enormous challenge to the international community. It is a plague threatening mankind - the individual, the family and society. The struggle against this problem must be waged. Everyone shares responsibility for it. The problem is, of course, not a new one, but its recent aggravation makes it a priority international problem. Swift co-operation in the fight against this phenomenon is inevitable. The convening of this special session clearly demonstrates the fact that the international community has become aware of the gravity of the problem and has resolved to take the necessary and effective action to resolve it.

Of course, direct responsibility in the fight against the drug evil resides, first and foremost, with every State, whether producer, transit or consumer. But today the dimensions of the problem go far beyond national borders and require that collective efforts be made, since many States are now at the mercy of an industry whose trade figures are greater than those of the oil industry and equalled only by those of the arms industry. The drug industry therefore undermines the moral values and threatens the development and security of countries, for its social, economic and political effects are devastating.

The problem today is so great and complex that no State alone has the means to resolve it. It goes without saying that no State in our world is free of the effects of this scourge, regardless of its geographical location or its size. The extent of the problem varies from one countrey to another and from one society to another because of a number of factors - mainly the propensity for demand, lifestyle and moral values in different societies. If we ever wish to eliminate

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

this problem we must tackle it through a global approach. On the one hand, we must consider its relationship to development - either the development of the individual or the overall development of society - and, on the other hand, we must consider its relationship to other scourges, such as arms traffic, mercenarism and violence.

In this respect, Jordan welcomed General Assembly resolution 44/142, which advocates the establishment of a group of intergovernmental experts entrusted with studying the economic and social consequences of illicit traffic in drugs, since this is an appropriate means of fully understanding the problem and considering it from a global standpoint.

We all agreed today that the drug problem requires effective international co-operation. In this respect the international conference, to be held in London in April, on the reduction of demand for drugs is a step in the right direction. We hope that the results of that conference will be effective. It is also our hope that the global programme of action that will emerge from this special session will be implemented effectively and represent a milestone in the elimination of the scourge of drugs.

The role of the United Nations in this field is essential. It must therefore be strengthened, because this Organization can act as a co-ordinator, given its experience in this field. The United Nations must also be given the resources it needs to this end.

International co-operation does not mean that there is no need for individual States to take action on their own to confront this problem. Colombia is an example to be emulated in connection with national measures that can be taken by a

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

State. Regional co-operation and co-ordination can also strengthen the effectiveness of this struggle. Last week's meeting in Cartagena proved this.

Jordan is a favoured country since it does not have a drug abuse problem. This is so because Jordanian society is broadly immune to the drug phenomenon for religious and social reasons. None the less, certain affiliates of the drug network from time to time attempt to make Jordanian territory a land of transit between producers in East Asia and the Middle East and consumers in the West. Statistics show that 95 per cent of drugs seized in Jordan in the 1980s were intended primarily for drug addicts in neighbouring countries, in Europe and in North America. Jordan is therefore taking forceful action in all official and private sectors to prevent the country from becoming a transit point. Our location between drug-producing countries and consumer countries gives us a special responsibility in the struggle against the international drug traffic, and we must avail ourselves of every means at our disposal for that purpose.

We have also re-examined the penalties that are levied for drug trafficking in order to enhance their deterrent effect and make them more in keeping with the crime. For its part the Ministry of Health is playing an effective role in the struggle against the abuse of drugs and psychotropic substances. It is overseeing all activities relating to prevention, treatment and rehabilitation: it controls the drug use, manages public awareness campaigns and monitors the treatment of drug addicts in special centres established for the purpose. Specialized professionals are being trained to participate in the campaign against drug abuse in co-operation with other parties concerned at the national, Arab, regional and international levels. A national multisectoral commission has been established to conduct research and studies and submit proposals.

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

At the regional level, Jordan, in the context of bilateral relations with Arab States, has contributed to the establishment of a strategy for the fight against illicit drug trafficking, which was adopted in 1986. We have also contributed to the development of a plan to harmonize Arab legislation, which was adopted this year by the Arab Group. Jordan has also concluded bilateral agreements that co-ordinate co-operation and make possible the exchange, between Jordan and a number of States, of information regarding the struggle against drugs.

At the international level, Jordan has participated in all efforts in this field. We have adhered to the 1961 Single Convention and its 1972 Protocol, as well as the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. We have also signed the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and we are about to take the last legislative steps towards its ratification.

In our view the international conventions on drugs that have been established thus far constitute a basis for the global programme of action. They also provide us with the means to co-operate at the regional, interregional and global levels. The Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, which was adopted at the 1987 Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, can serve as a basis for national policy in the fight against drugs.

It is States that bear primary responsibility in this area, as it is up to them to take the necessary measures to combat illicit drug trafficking. International co-operation cannot replace local or regional measures. States must, above all, reduce the demand for drugs. This, in turn, will lead to a decline in production, in accordance with the laws of the market, supply and demand. The developed countries, because of their collective responsibility in respect of this problem, must provide the developing countries with the resources they need to play their own role in the effective struggle against drugs.

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

The results of this special session will enjoy our complete support, because we are convinced that drug abuse is not a national or a local problem but is, indeed, a threat to peoples the world over. No one can be indifferent to the struggle against the problem because no State is free from its consequences. We should recall the warning issued by President Virgilio Barco Vargas of Colombia at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly:

"Only through concerted international action can we hope to defeat the scourge of narcotics. The drug cartels have declared total war. This declaration of war is against the entire community of nations." (A/44/PV.13, p. 11)

In conclusion, may I say that we await with great interest the positive results of this special session. I cannot fail to reaffirm here that Jordan, inspired by the positive results achieved in its struggle against this phenomenon, will continue to make every effort to overcome the evil and will support international efforts in the struggle against drug trafficking and drug dealing and against the use of drugs. We shall also continue to deal with the causes and the consequences.

Mr. MOTTAKI (Islamic Republic of Iran) (spoke in Persian; English text furnished by the delegation): I should like to congratulate you, Sir, on your well-deserved election as President of the General Assembly at this very important special session.

The adoption, by consensus, of General Assembly resolution 44/16 resulted in the convening of this special session on international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. It was a timely response to the international concern about drug abuse and trafficking in narcotic drugs. Perceiving this as a multidimensional and international problem, the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches

(Mr. Mottaki, Islamic Republic of Iran)

great importance to the General Assembly's work at this special session and hopes that the session will be a turning-point in the crusade against drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

The sharp increase in drug abuse and in illicit production and trafficking is an international crisis calling for concerted international, multinational, regional, subregional and bilateral co-operation. A quick glance at the statistics published by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs shows that production and consumption have increased sevenfold in the last 10 years. According to the Commission's report, the annual value of the drug market is $300 billion, and it is estimated that it will be $500 billion in 1990. These figures show that the world faces a serious crisis, and unfortunately this menace threatens the entire world population.

If just half of the money that was wasted on addiction during the last 10 years had been invested in production, perhaps the annual value of production would be $300 billion greater than it is at present. This amount exceeds the gross national product of Africa and South Asia, which have a population of nearly 1 billion and face extreme poverty.

Over the years many countries have taken various initiatives in the fight against addiction and trafficking. There have been some endeavours from the international community also: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and its 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the recently concluded 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance.

(Mr. Mottaki, Islamic Republic of Iran)

However, despite such efforts, the demand for drugs has not been reduced. The shameless action of the drug traffickers in Colombia last year is yet another proof of the deteriorating world drug situation. That fact indicates that we must deal with this issue in its totality, with all its dimensions. My Government believes that drug abuse is deeply rooted in the social, political, cultural and particularly the economic backgrounds of society.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in addition to supporting the major international achievements of the United Nations, including the 1988 Convention, has actively participated in various international and regional conferences against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. At the twenty-sixth session of the Sub-commission on Illicit Drug Trafficking in the Near and Middle East and the eleventh special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the following suggestions by the Islamic Republic of Iran were adopted: first, holding the twenty-seventh session of the Sub-commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East in the Islamic Republic of Iran; secondly, exchanging liaison officers at the regional level; thirdly, establishing a drug testing laboratory in Iran.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has continued its struggle against drug abuse and illicit narcotic trafficking. In this regard, in addition to the previously adopted regulations and laws, new anti-drug abuse legislation was adopted in January 1989 and a new co-ordinating headquarters has been established under the supervision of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Under this new anti-drug legislation, the following offences are subject to severe punishment: first, poppy planting or the planting of other kinds of drug-producing plants and their cultivation; secondly, import, export, storing and trafficking in narcotic

(Mr. Mottaki, Islamic Republic of Iran)

drugs; thirdly, manufacturing drug-producing and processing instruments; and, fourthly, supporting or providing shelter to traffickers and offenders.

This law contains many of the provisions included in the 1988 Convention concerning the punishment of offenders, including, but not limited to, the confiscation of property obtained by smuggling and the strict control of chemical precursors which are used in making narcotic and psychotropic substances. Law enforcement authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran have seriously followed the course of the relentless struggle against drug trafficking in the country and in the region. Some of their achievements are: first, increasing the level of awareness among people concerning the horrible socio-economic and physical effects of narcotic drugs; secondly, reduction in the amount of drugs smuggled and distributed in the country; thirdly, establishment of camps, rehabilitation and psychotherapy treatment centres for addicts - available figures indicate that 20 per cent of addicts treated in those centres have given up their habit; fourthly, bilateral agreement with neighbouring countries, namely, Turkey and Pakistan, to facilitate regional co-operation in combating drug trafficking; and, fifthly, bilateral negotiation and agreement with Malaysia and paving the way for regional and multilateral agreements.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the following measures must be taken by all countries in order to enhance international co-operation against drug abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotic substances: first, supporting the United Nations model treaty on mutual assistance and co-operation on the basis of the 1988 Convention; secondly, integration of the provisions of the 1988 Convention in national legislation; thirdly, intensification of universal action against drug trafficking through the implementation of the 1961, 1971 and 1988 Conventions;

(Mr. Mottaki, Islamic Republic of Iran)

fourthly, signing of bilateral treaties between neighbouring States for the arrest and prosecution of drug producers and traffickers; fifthly, using preventive measures, including educational programmes in schools and social centres, as well as the rehabilitation and treatment of addicts; and, sixthly, allocation of financial resources to the concerned developing countries to enable them to combat drug production and illicit trafficking in narcotic substances as well as creating new employment opportunities.

The willingness and determination of the international community to combat addiction and drug abuse is reflected in the holding of the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the outstanding results contained in the document, Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control (CMO), as well as the adoption of the 1988 Convention. In keeping with the CMO document, countries should strengthen their present rules and laws against drug traffickers, refrain from giving them facilities and confiscate their properties. The Islamic Republic of Iran has closely followed the recommendations of the CMO document and other similar documents, while some other countries have only settled for propaganda.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while expressing its deep concern over the problem of addiction and drug abuse, endorses world mobilization to combat this menace collectively. We once again express our readiness and firm determination to combat drug trafficking in the Near and Middle East region and to offer assistance to neighbouring countries to overcome this problem.

Mr. RAKOTONDRAMBOA (Madagascar) (interpretation from French): Like preceding speakers, I would like on behalf of the Malagasy delegation to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as President of the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly and to express the hope that under your wise leadership it will lead to results commensurate with our hopes.

Illicit trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances, and the resultant abuse of those substances, is constantly spreading and continues to afflict all parts of the world, sparing no country. The serious socio-economic problems they cause and the various types of crime often linked to them - such as weapons trafficking and the kidnapping or assassination of political leaders or members of the police forces of various countries - endanger the peace, stability, security and sovereignty of those States most affected.

The international community has been aware of these problems for several decades, and the various efforts it has made in this regard are expressions of its concern. It is particularly aware that no Government, however powerful or rich, can fight the phenomenon alone and that international co-operation alone can prevail over the problem. The 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances constitute the legal framework for such co-operation.

The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, held in Vienna from 17 to 26 June 1987, was another step in our collective endeavours. The Declaration and Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline for future actions to control drug abuse adopted on that occasion express the political will of the States that participated in the Conference to fight the drug problem and to take strict measures against the abuse of, and illicit trafficking in, narcotics and psychotropic substances.

(Mr. Rakotondramboa, Madagascar)

This special session is another step in our common efforts, and the documents to be adopted at it will help States to meet their Treaty responsibilities and, in particular, to implement the measures contained in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline, by providing them with substantial means they have lacked in that regard.

The effectiveness of international conventions depends on their implementation, and for that reason efforts must focus on that objective. Multilateral and bilateral assistance for development provided to both drug-producing countries and transit countries should be aimed at raising the living standards of peoples. Guaranteed access to markets of products at equitable prices is essential to the success of integrated rural development programmes to replace illicit crops in producing countries and a major incentive for the people of developing countries in transit zones to reject the lucrative offers of drug traffickers.

The spread to developing countries in transit zones of the harmful effects of drug abuse and illicit trafficking cannot be halted without strengthening their ability to resist the onslaught of the drug traffickers. International and regional co-operation must focus above all on the strengthening of national training programmes for border agents and the provision of technical assistance for law-enforcement and detection services.

Since demand is a key element in the problem of illicit drug trafficking, we must strengthen our efforts to reduce the dimensions of this major component of the drug problem if we are to consolidate actions to reduce the supply of, and illicit trafficking in, drugs and psychotropic substances. The prevention of, and the reduction of, the demand for illicit narcotics, and the social rehabilitation of

(Mr. Rakotondramboa, Madagascar)

drug addicts, must be given increased attention, particularly by the developed countries having high levels of drug consumption, with a view to the adoption of vigorous measures to that end.

Support for programmes of public awareness and education for the people of developing countries, and particularly transit countries, should be viewed as a fundamental component of any international effort to eliminate demand.

The prime responsibility in the fight against drugs lies with each State. But let me yet again emphasize that the breadth of the problem transcends national boundaries and requires collective efforts based on aid provided by organs of the United Nations involved in the fight against narcotics and international co-operation based on the principle of respect for national sovereignty.

The United Nations is the most appropriate framework for concerted action against illicit drugs. The international community has repeatedly acknowledged the importance of the work done by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the principal policy-making body of the United Nations in this sphere, as also the work of the International Control Board and its secretariat, the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Fund for the Control of Drug Abuse.

It must be a task of urgent priority to make the best possible use of the system already existing within the United Nations for fighting illicit drugs.

The strengthening of the structures of the various bodies and co-ordination of their efforts and the setting up of an anti-drug programme throughout the United Nations system is the right way to intensify global efforts to cope with the increasing threat posed by illicit drug abuse and trafficking. The involvement of the specialized agencies and financial institutions in the anti-drug Programme of Action would help increase their impact. Nor can we overlook the great value of

(Mr. Rakotondramboa, Madagascar)

the regional and interregional meetings of the heads of national law enforcement agencies, whose conclusions and recommendations need to be taken into account in the elaboration of the Programme of Action against drugs.

(Mr. Rakotondramboa, Madagascar)

Although the Democratic Republic of Madagascar has, relatively speaking, been spared this problem, my Government is well aware of the importance of international co-operation in the fight against illicit trafficking and the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as of the important role played by the United Nations system and the intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations in the implementation of this task. Madagascar's ratification of the various Conventions on drugs and psychotropic substances, its participation in various meetings dealing with drug problems, and its contribution - not very large, of course - to the resources of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control demonstrate its determination to take part in international anti-drug efforts.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar attaches great importance to the new Convention - that is, the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. My Government took an active part in the successive Vienna expert meetings during which the draft was prepared. This year it intends to take the necessary constitutional measures to become a party to the Convention. It is convinced that this new international instrument is an important, indeed decisive, step in the fight against the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, particularly since the Convention provides an opportunity, for the first time, to tackle the major aspects of that traffic, including the profits derived from it - aspects that had been neglected in previous Conventions.

The Government of Madagascar is also well aware of the importance of regional co-operation. It is true that no agreement has yet been concluded to that end. None the less, in its resolution CM/RES. 797 (XXXV) the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, at its thirty-fifth regular session in Freetown, from 18 to 26 June 1980, after recalling the provisions of Economic and Social

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Council resolution 2065 (LXII) and the recommendations of the Dakar and Lagos meetings on drug abuse, and noting with concern that drug abuse was spreading to previously unaffected groups and regions and the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was increasing, and that Africa was fast turning into a transit zone for drug trafficking, recommended inter alia the establishment for Africa of a specialized commission on narcotic drugs, a body that should provide a platform for regional co-operation and could facilitate the conclusion of a model agreement for the countries of the region.

The Government of Madagascar has high hopes for the outcome of this special session of the General Assembly, which we are quite sure is a valuable opportunity to make world public opinion aware of the magnitude of the drug problem and to encourage Governments to take concrete, realistic and effective action against the illicit trafficking in, demand for and supply, production and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

It is not enough to endorse the objectives that these measures seek to attain. We have to make sure that they are implemented. However, most developing countries have major material and financial difficulties when it comes to the implementation of the measures advocated. These difficulties are all the greater in that the countries have to confront countless other problems which are inherent in underdevelopment and the solution of which must be given equal priority.

Since the strengthening of the work of the United Nations depends to a large extent on the Organization's financial resources, the international community must find a solution to the problem of financing the world anti-drug struggle. The United Nations should play a fundamental role in the quest for ways to mobilize the necessary resources. The contribution of non-governmental organizations or the support of States in the form of voluntary contributions should be encouraged, in

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order to help the developing countries in general both in implementing their treaty obligations and in carrying out their national anti-drug policy.

The international community is confronted with a high-priority problem, a challenge to its conscience. Will our world continue to devote a large share of its resources to the manufacture and purchase of weapons of destruction, or will it choose to devote its resources to the fight against the common powerful enemy: the scourge of drugs?

The recent tragic events connected with drug trafficking have illustrated the reality of the threat to our societies. On our determination, on our joint action to attain our common objective - the elimination of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking - will depend in part the fate of future generations.

Mr. CORTES RUIZ (Nicaragua) (interpretation from Spanish): May I, on behalf of the Nicaraguan delegation, tell you, Sir, how pleased we are to see you presiding over this special session of the General Assembly. We are convinced that under your presidency its work will be most successful.

We have gathered here to discuss a problem of vital importance to mankind: the question of international co-operation to fight against the illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

It is a known fact that the consumption of drugs in the developed countries has increased alarmingly in recent years. This has affected broad sectors of our populations, and in particular our youth: the prime focus of the drug traffickers, who want to have young people join the existing mass of consumers the world over. We must not forget that a large number of children are being drawn on to the path towards drug addiction, thus damaging their physical and psychological health.

(Mr. Cortes Ruiz, Nicaragua)

The high rate of drug consumption promotes large-scale production, the modernization of means of transport, and the broadening of the distribution networks. The illicit profits from this crime are channeled through financial mechanisms authorized under existing banking laws. These illicit money-laundering activities occur in many countries, regardless of the will of States.

The United Nations has in recent decades been concerned about preserving coming generations from the scourge of drug addiction, through international co-operation. In this world framework, and through various legal instruments adopted by our Organization, it has recommended the imposition of effective sanctions against the crime of drug trafficking.

(Mr. Cortes Ruiz, Nicaragua)

It has also invited all countries to strengthen their control systems of the necessary substances and chemical products used in drug processing. In this area the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board have played an important role. Mechanisms have been set up to fight this evil. They are reflected in the 1988 Vienna Convention. All this has been done in the framework of respect for the principles of shared responsibility and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States.

At the regional level the Organization of American States (OAS) has invited all Latin American countries to sign legal instruments that could contribute to the elimination of drug trafficking, establishing co-ordination bodies and specialized agencies to eradicate drug trafficking.

Concerted action by States must provide the starting-point. It must be the link that guarantees the free will of our Governments to enter into bilateral and multilateral commitments in the struggle against illicit drug trafficking. This means that any unilateral decisions that a State might try to impose on another State must be prohibited and condemned, since this constitutes a violation of national sovereignty, undermines peaceful coexistence and is a breach of international law.

There should also be a policy of prevention as regards both production and consumption, since these two areas complement each other: the first refers to the pinpointing of the criminological factors that encourage the population of the developed countries to transport and consume narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; the second area is the identification of the reasons that lead certain underdeveloped countries to produce the crops needed for drug production.

We are convinced that in itself legislation alone is not enough to prevent the commission of any crime. In order to prevent crime it is necessary first to apply

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macro-social measures that make it possible to raise the standard of living of members of a community without neglecting secondary preventive measures. What we promote is an integral approach to the problem of drug abuse.

Hence we support the Cartagena Declaration, because in it the Andean countries have identified the roots of the problem of production. On the other hand, the way in which the United States has viewed the problem of consumption in this country is peripheral and non-structural.

The third world offers a depressing economic and social picture, which illustrates in the starkest terms the consequences of the global economic crisis, the negative effects of external debt and of unequal terms of trade. In other words, we are straddling poverty and death.

In the case of Nicaragua, the economic impact of declines in the price of coffee has meant the loss of $36 million, a loss that represents appproximately 12 per cent of exports last year. Furthermore, this deterioration in the Nicaraguan economy is aggravated by the application of coercive economic measures and foreign aggression.

We can categorically affirm that Nicaragua has not suffered the consequences of drug trafficking since the triumph of our Revolution. We are neither important producers nor consumers of any drug, nor is our country an international transit country for narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances. As evidence of this, in 1989 only 255 offences were recorded, the majority relating to the possession and consumption of marijuana.

For my Government it has been and remains a constant concern to contribute to the eradication of this scourge afflicting mankind. For this reason, on the instructions of the President of the Republic, last year our National Drug

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Commission was established. As its objective regarding the task of prevention, it is implementing educational programmes within the system of formal education so that young people may be aware of the harmful effects of drugs. In another area, the main task of the Commission will be to adapt our domestic legislation in accordance with the legal norms of the 1988 Vienna Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

At the international level, Nicaragua has been and remains a promoter of peace in Central America. In this context, we have entered into political agreements with the other Central American countries in order to contribute to putting an end to military conflict. This action on the part of my Government has not been confined to political agreements. We have promoted the signing of legal instruments so as to eradicate drug trafficking and its consequences from Central America.

The position of the Nicaraguan Government on this problem has been clear and precise. At the summit meeting of Central American Presidents held in El Salvador, at Tesoro Beach, our Government submitted an initiative for regional co-operation in the struggle for the eradication of drug trafficking. That initiative was welcomed by all the Heads of State. In their joint declaration they agreed: "To promote an agreement of regional co-operation for the eradication of drug trafficking".

As a result, the Executive Commission under the Esquipulas Agreements was given the task of preparing this agreement. The Commission met in Guatemala on 2 and 3 August 1989, and studied and approved the proposal submitted by Nicaragua.

That proposal includes:

"the commitment to promote the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and as

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soon as the Convention enters into force to set under way mechanisms compatible with respective national legislation".

Subsequently, at the summit meeting of Central American Presidents at Tela, in the Republic of Honduras, the Presidents agreed

"To condemn vigorously drug trafficking and use ... to promulgate laws [and] to this end, regional and international co-operation shall be sought and agreements concluded". (A/44/451, p. 4, para. 8)

Similarly, at the Ninth Summit of Heads of State or Governments of the Non-Aligned Countries, held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, the signatory parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances were urged to ratify the Convention, and States in a position to do so were urged in the meantime to take steps to implement the measures contained in the Convention. That initiative was promoted mainly by Nicaragua.

On 5 December 1989, the members of the Commission for Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly of Nicaragua ruled favourably in respect of the decree for adoption of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. On 13 December 1989, our National Assembly adopted the Convention. In coming days we will be depositing with the United Nations Secretariat the instrument of ratification of the Vienna Convention.

It should be pointed out that at the international level Nicaragua has now signed and ratified, among others, the 1961 Single Convention, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, the 1984 Quito Declaration, the Guatemala Declaration "Alliance of the Americas against Drug Trafficking" of 15 November 1986, and the Vienna United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances on 20 December 1988.

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Our country is co-operating through the Inter-American Commission for Drug Abuse Control (CICAD) with the implementation of the Rio de Janeiro Inter-American Programme of Action, adopted by the 31 States members of the Organization of American States (OAS). I should mention that Nicaragua is an active member of that Commission.

At the bilateral level, the Government of Nicaragua signed an agreement with the Government of Costa Rica planning joint control activities at our borders in order to prevent drug trafficking.

This special session is making it possible for the international community effectively to confront the phenomenon of drugs through the global plan of action we shall be adopting and implementing. Likewise, the adoption of the political declaration will strengthen the role of the United Nations in its struggle against drug trafficking. Member States must provide it the resources needed so that by the end of this decade the world can become free from the scourge of drugs.

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Finally, I should like to reiterate the need for an overall policy of prevention aimed at combating drug production, traffic and consumption, for we are convinced that this is not the problem only of the nations most affected but that it is the problem of all nations the world over. Only if we rally together - with international co-operation, with shared responsibility, with respect for the principle of non-intervention, and with united action - shall we be able to eradicate drug trafficking.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.